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THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 71/NO. 41 NOVEMBER 5, 2007

INSIDE

Young Socialists at N.J. campus debate 'Can communism work?'

—PAGE 4

Pentagon launches U.S. Africa Command

BY MAGGIE TROWE

The Pentagon announced October 1 that its new U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM), whose purpose is to oversee operations by Washington's armed forces in Africa, has reached its "initial operating capability."

President George Bush announced the creation of AFRICOM in February. This was soon after a U.S.-orchestrated invasion of Somalia by Ethiopian troops, backed by U.S. Special Forces, routed government forces from Mogadishu.

Besides boosting its presence in the Horn of Africa, another area of concern for Washington is the oil-rich Niger Delta. One country in that West African region, Nigeria, is now the third-largest supplier of U.S. oil. Today 10 percent of all U.S. oil supplies come from Africa.

Actions by the opposition Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) have cut oil output in Nigeria by one-third, according to Stratfor, a U.S. intelligence consulting company.

Equatorial Guinea has oil reserves of 12 million barrels and substantial investments by U.S. oil giants.

In the Horn of Africa, U.S. coun-

Continued on page 3

Maori rights backers protest 'antiterrorist' police raids in New Zealand

BY MIKE TUCKER

AUCKLAND, New Zealand—Some 1,000 Maori and their supporters held an angry rally and march in the town of Whakatane October 19 to protest recent police raids targeting Maori rights advocates and other political activists.

Protesters, who included many schoolchildren and students, carried Maori sovereignty flags and banners in Maori and English. One read, "We are not terrorists, we have been terrorised." They delivered a petition of complaint to the local police station.

Using "antiterrorism" legislation, armed police arrested 17 people across New Zealand October 15. Those arrested include Tame Iti, a prominent and longtime Maori rights campaigner, and other Maori rights advocates. Others detained were peace and environmental activists. Police made a further arrest October 17.

This is the first time police have used the 2002 Terrorism Suppression Act. Charges against the 18, however, have so far been laid under the Arms Act. The courts have denied most of them bail and suppressed details of the charges.

Police commissioner Howard Broad

Continued on page 9

Florida protesters: Jail killer guards!

Guards found 'not guilty' in death of Black youth



Militant/Ellen Brickley

Demonstrators rally October 23 in Tallahassee, Florida, to protest acquittal of boot camp guards in death of 14-year-old Black youth Martin Lee Anderson.

BY ELLEN BRICKLEY AND DEBORAH LIATOS

TALLAHASSEE, Florida, October 24—About 1,000 people marched to the federal courthouse here yesterday to protest the acquittal of seven boot camp guards and a camp nurse in the death of Martin Lee Anderson, a 14-year-old Black youth.

Protesters came from across Florida. They ranged from college youth attending their first demonstrations to veterans of the civil rights movement.

The NAACP, which organized the protest, demanded the Justice Department investigate the case for possible civil rights violations.

The eight were found not guilty of aggravated manslaughter October 12 in Panama City, 120 miles west of here. An all-white jury returned the verdict after 90 minutes of deliberation.

The day of the acquittals, protests took place outside the Panama City

Continued on page 9

Democrats, Republicans agree on law to boost domestic spying

BY SAM MANUEL

WASHINGTON—Democrats and Republicans on the Senate Intelligence Committee reached agreement with the Bush administration October 18 on new legislation that would authorize expanded domestic spying by the political police for at least the next six years. The government has been pushing for increased police surveillance powers in the name of its "war on terrorism."

The bill would grant retroactive immunity to telecommunications companies that turned over thousands of individuals' telephone records, summaries of e-mail traffic, and other information to the government at its request after Sept. 11, 2001.

The Senate version of the bill passed with a bipartisan vote of 13 to 2. It places the government's foreign spying program under the supervision of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court. This secret court was set up in the Justice Department under the 1978 Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) sponsored by Sen. Edward Kennedy.

In 26 years the FISA court has rejected five out of 19,000 government requests for wiretaps or search warrants.

The Senate bill would allow the government to wiretap the communications of foreign targets overseas without having to obtain warrants for each person being snooped on. The cops would be able to do so even in some cases when

Continued on page 6

From the campus to the coalfields, 'Militant' subs sell

BY PAUL PEDERSON

The subscription campaign is gearing up. Campaigners in Washington, D.C., have now raised their quota twice, bringing it up to 160 subs. So have supporters of the socialist paper in Des Moines and Pittsburgh.

In the past week 328 subs were sold, keeping the seven-week campaign well ahead of pace at 56 percent.

The *Militant's* top seller this week is Frank Forrestal of Des Moines with 13 subscriptions. At second and third place are Dan Fein from New York and Sara Lobman from Newark, with 12 and 11 subs, respectively.

Forrestal was part of a campaign-

Continued on page 4

Turkish troops mass on border of Iraqi Kurdistan

BY SAM MANUEL

WASHINGTON, October 23—Tensions between the Turkish government and the U.S.-backed regime in Baghdad sharpened when Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) guerrillas launched a cross-border attack October 21 that killed 12 Turkish soldiers. Turkish troops massed on the border, as the government in Ankara pressed Iraqi authorities and Washington to crack down on the rebels, who are reportedly operating from northern Iraq.

The Bush administration warned the Turkish government against taking any action that might upset the fragile stability in northern Iraq.

On October 23 Iraqi prime minister Nouri al-Maliki said his government would not allow the PKK to function on Iraqi territory. Kurdish officials in the Iraqi government condemned the rebel actions, but strongly rejected Ankara's demand that PKK leaders be arrested and handed over to Turkey.

The previous day, dozens of Turkish military vehicles loaded with heavy weapons were sent to the border with Iraqi Kurdistan, the Associated Press reported. Turkey's military said it launched a counteroffensive in which 34 PKK guerrillas were killed.

The PKK has fought a decades-long war for self-determination for the Kurds, an historically oppressed nationality, a majority of whose population lives in southern Turkey. The capitalist governments in Turkey, Iran, and Syria fear that the autonomy won by Kurds in Iraq fans national aspirations

Continued on page 9

Also Inside:

Spanish paper interviews socialist worker running for mayor of Houston



Militant/Jacquie Henderson

Amanda Ulman, Socialist Workers Party mayoral candidate, and Steve Warshell, SWP candidate for city controller, campaign among students at University of Houston.

The following are excerpts from an article published in the October 10 issue of La Voz, *a weekly Spanish-language supplement to the* Houston Chronicle. *The excerpt below reports on the campaign of the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Houston, Amanda Ulman. The article also outlined the platforms of the other two candidates in the race. The translation is by the* Militant.

BY JORGE LUIS SIERRA

Houston residents with the right to vote will be able to elect their mayor at the polls this coming November 6.

Experts like Richard Murray and Adolfo Santos, professors at the University of Houston, agree that incumbent mayor Bill White, 53, will win by a wide margin. "The mayor will easily win," says Murray.

If that prediction is true, this will be White's second and final reelection.

However, the other contenders also believe they have an opportunity to win.

Amanda Ulman, 32, is a meatpacking worker who is a member of the local section of the Socialist Workers Party, while Outlaw Josef Wales IV, 60, a candidate who has previously run for mayor, is an engineer who, among other things, dedicates himself to the promotion of wrestling in Houston.

The programs of the three candidates are very different from each other. . . .

Ulman, an international program

Amanda Ulman's program is broader and global. For example, although it is a matter not directly related to the office of mayor, she proposes the immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq. Furthermore, she demands complete and unconditional amnesty for the undocumented, and an end to the death penalty and what she calls "police brutality."

Ulman says members of other organizations have asked her why she doesn't champion local issues in her campaign, but she responds that the war in Iraq and the situation of undocumented immigrants are problems that affect all workers directly, and therefore also the workers of Houston.

However, when asked if she has some proposals for the city, Ulman responds that "we need a public works program, paid for by the federal government, to create jobs, to build hospitals."

During the day Ulman works in a meatpacking plant and in the evenings she staffs the office of the Socialist Workers Party. Her organization publishes books on the experiences of leaders of social struggles around the world.

S.F. exhibit on Japanese Cubans before, after revolution

BY PATTI IIYAMA

SAN FRANCISCO—The National Japanese American Historical Society (NJAHS) hosted an opening reception October 6 for a photographic exhibit on a trip taken by Japanese Americans to Cuba to meet with Cubans of Japanese ancestry.

The exhibit, called "Nikkei Reflections: Continuing the Connections Cuban Nikkei," consists of photos taken during a trip to Cuba that the group Tsukimi Kai organized in December 2006. It was their second visit to the island.

Speaking at the reception, Steve Wake, one of the organizers of the trip, used some of the photos to illustrate the cultural and oral history exchanges with Japanese Cubans.

Japanese Americans and their counterparts in Cuba, of whom there remain 1,300 today, shared a common history, initially as immigrants. Many of them became farmers and fishermen. During World War II they were incarcerated.

In the United States, 112,000 Japanese, two-thirds of whom were U.S. citizens, were locked up in concentration camps, while in Cuba all Japanese-Cuban men were incarcerated in the Presidio Modelo prison on the Isle of Pines (now the Isle of Youth).

After the 1959 revolution in Cuba, their paths diverged. The Japanese Cubans with whom the group spoke are supporters of the revolution. They said they felt that conditions had improved for them, particularly with free medical care and education, even though Cuba remains part of the underdeveloped world.

Wake pointed out that people in Cuba participate in helping to make important decisions that affect their lives. He said solidarity with others is a way of life in Cuba, in contrast to the United States.

The evocative photos and informative captions give a feel for the life of Japanese Cubans.

Tsukimi Kai members were able to interview a number of Japanese Cubans, including one man who fought in the Cuba's Sierra Maestra mountains with Che Guevara in the 1956–58 revolutionary war. They also spoke with some third generation fishermen, as well as the daughter of one of the people who helped to develop the urban agriculture projects in Havana.

The exhibit is worth seeing to learn about an aspect of Cuban life that is little known. It will be at the NJAHS until December 31.

The historical society is located in San Francisco's Japantown at 1684 Post St. They are open Monday–Friday, and the first Saturday of the month, from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. For more information call (415) 921-5007.

The Militant

Vol. 71/No. 41

Closing news date: October 24, 2007

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Published weekly except for one week in January, two weeks in July, and one week in August.

The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018. **Telephone:** (212) 244-4899 **Fax:** (212) 244-4947

E-mail: themilitant@mac.com

Website: www.themilitant.com

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: United States: for one-year send $35 to above address.

Latin America, Caribbean: for one-year subscription send $65, drawn on a U.S. bank, to above address. By first class (airmail), send $80.

Africa, Asia, and the Middle East: Send $65 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

Canada: Send Canadian $45 for one-year subscription to the Militant, 2238 Dundas St. West, Suite 201, Toronto, ON. Postal Code: M6R 3A9.

United Kingdom: £25 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London, First Floor, 120 Bethnal Green (Entrance in Brick Lane), London, E2 6DG, England.

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Pacific Islands: Send NZ$50 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand.

Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the Militant's views. These are expressed in editorials.

U.S. Africa Command

Continued from front page

terrorism operations are based in Camp Lemonier in Djibouti. In the Sahel region, Washington launched the Trans-Saharan Counterterrorism Initiative in 2005. TSCI coordinates joint military actions between U.S. forces and governments bordering the Sahara Desert.

On September 28 the U.S. Senate confirmed the appointment of Gen. William Ward as AFRICOM's first commander. Ward previously served as deputy commander of the U.S. European Command (EUCOM). In 2006 Ward became the fifth Black U.S. army officer to be promoted to four-star general.

The AFRICOM staff, currently at 120 members, is to grow to 800 over the next year, according to Pentagon officials. For its first year AFRICOM will operate under EUCOM, headquartered in Stuttgart, Germany, and eventually it will be based in Africa.

Only one African government, Liberia, has publicly offered to host the command. Several governments have criticized it.

"The command coming here will mean a lot for both countries," Liberian information minister Lawrence Bropleh told the Reuters news agency.

Ugandan defense minister Ruth Nankabirwa said, "AFRICOM will be a very good idea to enhance stability and fight terrorism on the continent."

On the other hand, Zambian president Levy Mwanawasa, who heads the Southern African Development Community (SADC), declared, "There will be no military base in Zambia or the SADC region." Zambian chief government spokesman Mike Mulongoti said, "It is like allowing a giant to settle in your home."

In August, South African defense minister Mosiuoa Lekota told the *Mail and Guardian*, "[T]he AFRICOM initiative has raised a lot of interest and attracted a lot of attention, because at some point, there is a certain sense that Africa has to avoid the presence of foreign forces on her soil."



Staff Sgt. Stacy Pearsall

U.S. Marines train cops in Djibouti, a former French colony on the Horn of Africa, in 2005.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

FLORIDA

Miami

How the Socialist Revolution in Cuba Took Up the Fight to End Anti-Chinese Racism. Benefit for the Militant Fund. Speaker: Tom Leonard, former merchant seaman and veteran leader of the Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Nov. 3. Program starts 5 p.m., followed by dinner. Donation: $5 program, $7 dinner. *Veye Yo, 28 NE 54th St. Tel: (305) 756-4436.*

TEXAS

Houston

The Fight Against Racism Today: From the Struggle Against Jim Crow to Jena, Louisiana. Speakers: Steve Warshell, Socialist Workers candidate for city controller. Fri., Nov 2. Dinner 6:30 p.m.; program 7:30 p.m. Donation: $5 dinner, $5 program. *4800 W 34th St., Suite C-51A. Tel: (713) 688-4919.*

AUSTRALIA

Sydney

Oppose Federal Government Takeover of Northern Territory Aboriginal Communities. Speakers: Ron Poulsen, Communist League candidate for Watson, others TBA. Sat., Nov. 3. Dinner, 6 p.m.; program, 7 p.m. *Upstairs, 281-7 Beamish St., Campsie. Tel: (02) 9718 9698.*

Speakers protest whitewash of L.A. cop riot

BY WENDY LYONS AND NAOMI CRAINE

LOS ANGELES—The police are "trying to protect themselves. What we want is for the officers who beat people to be punished," said Adolfo Cruz at a meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners here October 9.

Cruz reported that he was hit three times with a police club on May 1 as cops assaulted a crowd of thousands of workers rallying in MacArthur Park during the May Day immigrant rights demonstrations in this city. He was responding to a report presented by Police Chief William Bratton that attempts to control the political damage stemming from that police riot.

The 83-page report describes the police actions as "disconcerting" and claims to promote "meaningful institutionalized changes that seek to ensure that the events of May 1, 2007, do not happen again."

The thrust of the report, however, is to present the incident as an aberration, the result of inadequate planning, training, and command structure.

May Day actions

Some 30,000 people marched through downtown Los Angeles on May Day demanding the legalization of undocumented immigrants and an end to police raids and deportations. Others participated in a march to MacArthur Park later that day, where about 5,000 gathered for an evening rally around the same demands. Nationwide, close to half a million workers took part in actions that day.

Just before 6:30 p.m., the police decided to shut down the park rally, which had a permit. They claim this was a response to a group of 20–30 people who "threw objects at police." Without issuing a dispersal order, the cops moved into the crowd, clubbing demonstrators and reporters, and firing 146 "less-lethal" foam bullets.

The report praises Bratton's decision after the cop riot to demote a couple of police officials and institute "incident management teams" for crowd control actions. It states that 26 individual cops are still being "investigated" for possible disciplinary action—more than five months after the assault.

At least 246 people have filed complaints, and many are suing the police for the assault. Some of these plaintiffs attended the October 9 police commission meeting. They sat through two hours of speeches by the police and commissioners before being allowed to speak under "public comments."

October 17 forum

Many of the same people attended a second forum October 17, sponsored by a city council task force, where Bratton again presented the police report. They protested the fact that once again they were only given two minutes each, while Bratton and other police officials took an hour. They demanded that the city council sponsor a forum where the victims of the police assault can present their side of the story.

"Was the force adequate or not against children and pregnant women?" María Flores declared indignantly. "Why did I see motorcycles pushing people?" well before the police claim bottles were thrown at them, she asked.

"This was a police riot in response to mobilizations by people the rulers thought would never stand up for themselves," said Naomi Craine, speaking at the forum for the Socialist Workers Party. Referring to the shooting and clubbing of the crowd, Craine said, "The police who are responsible for this should face criminal prosecution."

"They're just telling lies," José Navarro, a retiree, told the *Militant* after the meeting. He said that an hour before the police assault began, a cop outside the subway station by the park pointed an automatic rifle at him. "Is this a game for them?" Navarro asked.

Groups in U.S., Canada build Toronto conference on Cuban 5

BY SAM MANUEL

WASHINGTON, D.C.—A conference in Toronto to map out the next steps in the campaign to win freedom for five Cuban revolutionaries unjustly held in U.S. jails will feature several guests from Cuba. These include members of Cuba's National Assembly, the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP), and family members of the Cuban Five.

The November 9–10 conference, entitled "Breaking the Silence: A Solidarity Conference for the Cuban Five," will be jointly hosted by the Canadian Network on Cuba, the Table de Concertation de Solidarité Québec-Cuba, and the U.S.-based National Network on Cuba.

Supporters of the Cuban Five from several U.S. cities, including New York, Boston, and Washington, D.C., are planning to participate in the conference.

The conference opens with a morning press conference that includes Elizabeth Palmeiro, wife of Ramón Labañino, one of the five jailed Cubans. A public meeting that evening features the Cuban ambassador to Canada, Ernesto Sentí Darias.

The second day features a session with Palmeiro; Silvia García, a member of the Cuban National Assembly; and Basilio Gutiérrez and Javier Domínguez from ICAP.

Antonio Guerrero, Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Fernando González, and René González have been imprisoned in the United States since 1998. They were convicted and sentenced in a federal frame-up trial in Miami in 2001. The five were monitoring counterrevolutionary Cuban American groups in Florida that have carried out violent attacks in Cuba with complicity of the U.S. government.

Information on the conference can be found at www.canadiannetworkoncuba.ca.

YS in debate hosted by N.J. Cuban student group: 'Can communism work?'

This column is written and edited by members of the Young Socialists, a revolutionary socialist youth organization. For more information contact the YS at 306 W. 37th St., 10th floor, New York, NY 10018; tel.: (212) 629-6649; e-mail: youngsocialists@mac.com.

YOUNG SOCIALISTS IN ACTION

BY INGRID FRANCO

NEW BRUNSWICK, New Jersey—Nearly 80 students attended a debate here at Rutgers University on October 17 titled "Can Communism Work?" It was sponsored by the Rutgers Union of Cuban American Students (RUCAS) and Lambda Theta Phi Latin Fraternity.

The debaters were Fernando Villars, a member of the College Republicans at Rutgers University in Newark, and Santiago Beck, a member of the Young Socialists who is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for New Jersey State Assembly in the 29th District. RUCAS students organized the meeting to assure an atmosphere of free discussion and respect for all viewpoints.

Villars asserted that in Cuba there is no communism but rather "Fidelismo." He referred to Cuban revolutionary leader Ernesto Che Guevara as a "butcher" and accused the revolutionary government of Cuba of arbitrarily carrying out executions against political prisoners.

Militant/Angel Lariscy

Young Socialist Santiago Beck (right) debates College Republican Fernando Villars at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey, at October 17 event attended by nearly 80 people.

(He was referring to the fact that after the overthrow of the U.S.-backed Batista dictatorship, several hundred of Batista's torturers and murders were put on trial for their crimes and executed, with enormous backing among the Cuban people.)

"Here, in this democracy in the United States, we can speak freely," said Villars. "In Cuba you cannot speak freely; if you do you will get arrested."

Villars said that in the United States people are free to do whatever they want, such as open a Dunkin' Donuts.

He argued that communism goes against human nature. He used an analogy of four students on a group project who get the same grade. He said it would be unfair if two of the students did more work than the others; the "lazy" students would be "mooching off" the others.

Beck pointed to the nearly 50 years of U.S. aggression against Cuba, from the failed 1961 mercenary invasion at the Bay of Pigs to the 1966 Cuban Adjustment Act—designed to entice Cubans to leave the island outside legal channels, whether by raft or armed hijacking—to the U.S. government's frame-up of five Cuban revolutionaries for defending

Continued on page 5

From campus to mine 'Militant' sells

Continued from front page

ing team to Gillette, Wyoming, where some of the biggest coal mines in the country are located. Twenty-five people, most of them industrial workers in the coal, gas, and oil industries, subscribed. Fifty bought copies of the paper.

Fein sold many of his subs to taxi drivers who organized a one-day strike this past week. And Fein, Maura DeLuca, and Luis Mendoza, who all work in a Bronx garment plant, teamed up. Mendoza introduced the paper to a friend of his and together they went door to door in his building, selling two subs and three copies, and collecting a $5 donation.

Lobman took part in a conference at Essex Community College called "Race Still Matters." Of the 300 people in attendance, 20 subscribed and 63 bought copies of the paper and 10 books and pamphlets published by Pathfinder Press.

Manuele Lasalo reports from Sydney, Australia, that campaigners there netted six subs last week at protests against the repression in Myanmar and while collecting signatures to put the Communist League ticket on the ballot there. Ron Poulsen was the top seller there for the week with three subs.

Printed below is a dispatch on the sales campaign from central eastern Utah.

BY BETSEY STONE

PRICE, Utah—"Keep the paper coming," a retired union miner told a team of *Militant* supporters who visited subscribers in mining communities October 20–21. "I don't agree with everything, but I read it to get news of miners and other union struggles."

During house visits and sales at the local post office and at the entrance to a mine, the team sold 14 subscriptions.

The retiree has followed the *Militant*'s reporting on the strike carried out by miners, mostly immigrants, to get a union at the nearby Co-op mine. "The immigrant workers were the ones who first brought in the union years ago," he said, "and they will help bring it in again."

John Gutierrez, a retired miner and long-time member of the United Mine Workers union (UMWA), has worked at many mines in the area. "Union mines are the safest mines," he says. When a foreman wanted his crew to do an unsafe job, he said, "all we had to say was: 'let's call in the union safety committee,' and the foreman changed his mind. That's what a union is."

Many of the discussions focused on the collapse at the Crandall Canyon mine where nine miners died this summer, and on the need to fight for mine safety.

"Safety is *the* union issue," said a miner who works at Deer Creek, one of only two union mines in the area. The team sold at the entrance during a shift change. Six miners bought copies and one subscribed.

The Deer Creek miner, who asked that his name not be used, said there are nonunion mines where, "if you speak up about an unsafe job, or refuse to do it, they will show you the door."

Fall 'Militant' Subscription Drive
Sept. 29 – Nov. 18 ♦ Week 3 of 7

Country	Quota	Sold	%
SWEDEN	**30**	**18**	**60%**
UNITED KINGDOM			
Edinburgh	**50**	**22**	**44%**
London	**70**	**44**	**63%**
UK Total	**120**	**66**	**55%**
CANADA*	**125**	**67**	**54%**
UNITED STATES			
Washington, DC*	**160**	**114**	**71%**
Pittsburgh*	**65**	**41**	**63%**
Newark, NJ*	**120**	**75**	**63%**
Des Moines, IA*	**145**	**84**	**58%**
Atlanta*	**270**	**151**	**56%**
Philadelphia	**105**	**58**	**55%**
Houston*	**90**	**48**	**53%**
New York*	**315**	**165**	**52%**
Twin Cities*	**130**	**66**	**51%**
Chicago*	**90**	**45**	**50%**
Denver	**6**	**3**	**50%**
Boston	**60**	**29**	**48%**
San Francisco*	**120**	**56**	**47%**
Seattle*	**100**	**44**	**44%**
Los Angeles*	**100**	**43**	**43%**
Miami*	140	59	42%
Albany, NY	20	8	40%
U.S. Total	**2,036**	**1,089**	**53%**
AUSTRALIA*	**45**	**23**	**51%**
NEW ZEALAND	**55**	**25**	**45%**
Int'l totals	**2,411**	**1,288**	**56%**
Should be	**2,300**	**986**	**43%**

* Raised goal

Militant Fund payments pick up

BY SAM MANUEL

WASHINGTON—This week we received $15,774 toward the Militant Fund, making it the best week so far. That's close to the pace of collection of contributions that will be needed over the next five weeks to make the $100,000 goal by November 25. Partisans of the *Militant* in San Francisco and Los Angeles led the way this week, sending just over $3,500 each.

In Chicago, 29 supporters of the socialist press contributed and pledged $750 at an October 21 Militant Fund event, reports John Hawkins.

Dennis Richter, who gave the fund pitch, underscored the enthusiastic response of *Militant* supporters in the area to the fund. Richter announced that in Chicago they have raised their goal by $1,000.

Other areas need to follow their example by raising their quotas in order to close the more than $2,000 shortfall in pledges.

The featured speaker in Chicago was the *Militant's* Washington correspondent and fund director, Sam Manuel. The meeting was on "From New Orleans to Jena: Fight for a Workers and Farmers Government to End Racism and Exploitation of Working People."

Beverly Wilson, who met supporters of the *Militant* the day before at a meeting of the Chicago National Action Network, attended the fund event. She described how she was dragged from her car and roughed up by cops while taking her two children to school. Wilson is Black.

An October 19 Militant Fund event in Newark collected $950, reports Brian Williams. The event featured Ma'mud Shirvani, who spoke on "U.S. Hands Off Iran: Oppose Washington's Sanctions and Military Threats."

William Warren, a meat packer and member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1245, spoke about how well the *Militant* was received at the Jena Six demonstration recently held in Newark. Warren helped to distribute the paper there.

Ingrid Franco, a Young Socialist and student at Rutgers University, said the *Militant* helps to publicize the activities of the YS, especially through the weekly "Young Socialists in Action" column.

To make a contribution, contact local distributors listed on page 8 or send checks payable to the *Militant* at the address listed on page 2.

$100,000 'Militant' Fund Drive
Sept. 29 – Nov. 25 ♦ Week 3 of 8

Country	Quota	Paid	%
FRANCE	**250**	**115**	**46%**
AUSTRALIA	**1,400**	**600**	**43%**
UNITED KINGDOM			
Edinburgh	**600**	**427**	**71%**
London	1,500	372	25%
UK total	**2,100**	**799**	**38%**
CANADA	**4,100**	**775**	**38%**
UNITED STATES			
San Francisco	**11,000**	**5,625**	**51%**
Los Angeles	**8,500**	**4,289**	**50%**
New York	**15,000**	**5,858**	**39%**
Newark, NJ	3,500	1,244	36%
Des Moines, IA	2,000	555	28%
Seattle	7,000	1,855	27%
Miami	3,000	745	25%
Washington, D.C.	2,800	670	24%
Philadelphia	3,500	650	19%
Atlanta	9,000	1,650	18%
Pittsburgh	3,500	525	15%
Chicago*	7,000	900	13%
Houston	3,000	315	11%
Boston	2,800	220	8%
Twin Cities	4,700		0%
Albany, NY	125		0%
U.S. total	86,425	25,101	29%
NEW ZEALAND	3,000	578	19%
SWEDEN	700		0%
Intl'l totals	**97,975**	**27,609**	**28%**
Goal/Should be	**100,000**	**37,500**	**38%**

* Raised goal

ON THE PICKET LINE

Rail workers strike in France over retirement

PARIS—The big majority of rail workers in France struck October 18 to defend their retirement system. More than 200,000 participated in demonstrations throughout the country.

The government of prime minister François Fillon has announced its intention to scrap the retirement system that covers 500,000 rail workers and other state employees, which allows them to retire as early as 50 years of age.

The French government is seeking to raise the number of years these workers must labor to enjoy a full pension, which is currently 37.5 years. This period was raised to 40 years for workers at private companies in 1993 and for most state employees in 2003.

During the strike very few trains ran throughout France, and virtually the entire Paris bus and Metro system was shut down.

With all six rail unions calling for the strike, 74 percent of rail workers, and 90 percent of rail engineers, stayed away from work. More than half of the Paris Metro and bus workers participated as well, as did a similar percentage of the workers at the national gas and electricity companies.

This is higher than the 67 percent that participated in the three-week strike of 1995, which forced the government at the time to abandon its effort to get rid of the retirement system.

—Derek Jeffers

Postal workers in UK walk out over shift changes

LONDON—Postal workers in Liverpool walked off the job on October 10 when management tried to impose shift changes. The unofficial strikes started as workers returned to the job after two official 48-hour strikes by 130,000 postal workers throughout the United Kingdom.

The unofficial strikes spread to south and east London. In parts of Scotland workers also walked out after Royal Mail took strike deductions for two recent strikes from one week's wages.

The Communication Workers Union (CWU) organized similar rolling strikes from the end of June to early August in response to plans by Royal Mail to cut 40,000 jobs, raise the retirement age from 60 to 65 before 2010, lower pensions, and change working hours and conditions.

"Everyone was going to return to work until the question about shift patterns came up," said Antony Stone, who works at a Liverpool depot. "When we were told we would still have to start at 6 a.m. and then work Saturday afternoons, without any negotiation, that was the turning point."

On the picket line at the Nine Elms postal depot in southeast London October 11, management tried to intimidate workers and order them back to work. They said the strike was illegal because they hadn't given a seven day notice and that the CWU wasn't behind them. Worker's responded that they were staying out. The bosses called the cops in an attempt to close down the picket line. They also tried to get picketers' cars towed. The strikers moved their cars and continued picketing.

On October 12 an agreement was reached by the CWU and Royal Mail and further official strike actions scheduled for the following week were called off.

Workers in Liverpool were the last to return to work ending their unofficial strike October 18 after management agreed to negotiations over the shift changes.

—Ólöf Andra Proppé and Danny O'Brien

Danny O'Brien is a member of the Communication Workers Union and a delivery worker at the Nine Elms depot in London.

N.Y. cab drivers strike, demand 'No GPS!'



Militant/Tom Baumann

NEW YORK, October 22—"No GPS!" chanted 300 taxi cab drivers at a strike rally today in front of the Taxi and Limousine Commission headquarters. The New York Taxi Workers Alliance called a 24-hour strike to oppose Global Positioning Systems (GPS) installed in cabs that track drivers. The device includes a credit card reader that charges the driver a 5 percent surcharge with each transaction. Other demands include health care, pensions, and union recognition.

—TOM BAUMANN

YS in "Can communism work?" debate

Continued from page 4

their country against attacks from ultrarightist groups operating from U.S. soil.

"Washington is clearly under the impression that something, whether you call it communism or socialism, is working in Cuba," said Beck, and that example for working people worldwide is what the U.S. rulers are afraid of. "If anything, the U.S. rulers have underestimated Cuba and continue to do so."

"Cuba has more doctors serving in the Third World than the World Health Organization," said Beck. "Cuba has a higher literacy rate than most large U.S. cities." How is this possible? Because, he said, "in 1959, workers and farmers made a socialist revolution."

"What does capitalism mean for most of the world?" Beck asked. "Two billion people have no access to modern forms of energy. One sixth of the world has no access to drinkable water. In this country millions lack health insurance."

Beck concluded by encouraging students to join the Young Socialists and others in demonstrations on October 27 to oppose the U.S.-led war in Iraq.

In the discussion, several students in the audience raised differing views on the Cuban Revolution and communism. Several disagreed with Beck on the revolution, citing what they said was the experiences of their families in Cuba. Others spoke in agreement with him.

Several students challenged Villars' analogy about the student group project, pointing out that youth from rich families who go to exclusive private schools have different opportunities from youth from poor families.

One woman said that what Villars said "just sounded selfish." Another said that in Cuba before the revolution, "the elites owned everything; the poor had nothing. What else were they to do?"

Another student asked Villars if it was OK to throw immigrant workers in prison. Villars said no, but that in Cuba they throw independent journalists in prison. Beck replied that those lauded in the U.S. media as "independent journalists" are actually members of small political groups who carry out activity, with U.S. funding, against the Cuban Revolution.

Another audience member pointed to the U.S. Patriot Act and said that people in this country are targeted for their political views.

After the program, a fraternity invited the Young Socialists to speak at a meeting on Che Guevara on November 12. Several students signed up for more information on joining the YS contingent in the upcoming antiwar actions.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

25 CENTS
THE MILITANT
A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY/PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

November 5, 1982

CHARLESTON, W. Va.—On October 27, the Jackson County Grand Jury put a stop to the most recent attack by West Virginia state officials against both the Socialist Workers candidates and those who signed their nominating petitions.

The Grand Jury refused to return indictments against 30 county residents who had signed the nominating petitions for the socialist candidates and also voted in the primary elections.

In West Virginia, an unconstitutional law makes this a "crime" punishable by one year in jail and a $1,000 fine. Seventeen thousand West Virginians had signed petitions to put two socialist coal miners on the November ballot. Bill Hovland is running for U.S. Senate, and Adrienne Benjamin, for U.S. Congress in the 3rd District. Both are members of the United Mine Workers of America.

THE MILITANT
PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE
NEW YORK, N.Y. FIVE (5) CENTS

November 4, 1957

A mounting wave of militancy sweeping through the French working class showed its power on Oct. 25 in a 24-hour general strike.

An unusual feature of the strike was that it came in the midst of a prolonged cabinet crisis. The Bourges-Maunoury cabinet fell Sept. 30. Since then there has been only a "caretaker" government while the French capitalists have juggled parties and politicians in unsuccessful attempts to piece together a new cabinet to cope with the highly expensive and unpopular war against the Algerian people.

As an article headlined "Strike Warns Paris Officialdom" in the *Christian Science Monitor* observes, French "workers are not only impatient, they are growing more conscious of their power."

THE MILITANT
Weekly Organ of the Communist League of America [Opposition]

November 5, 1932

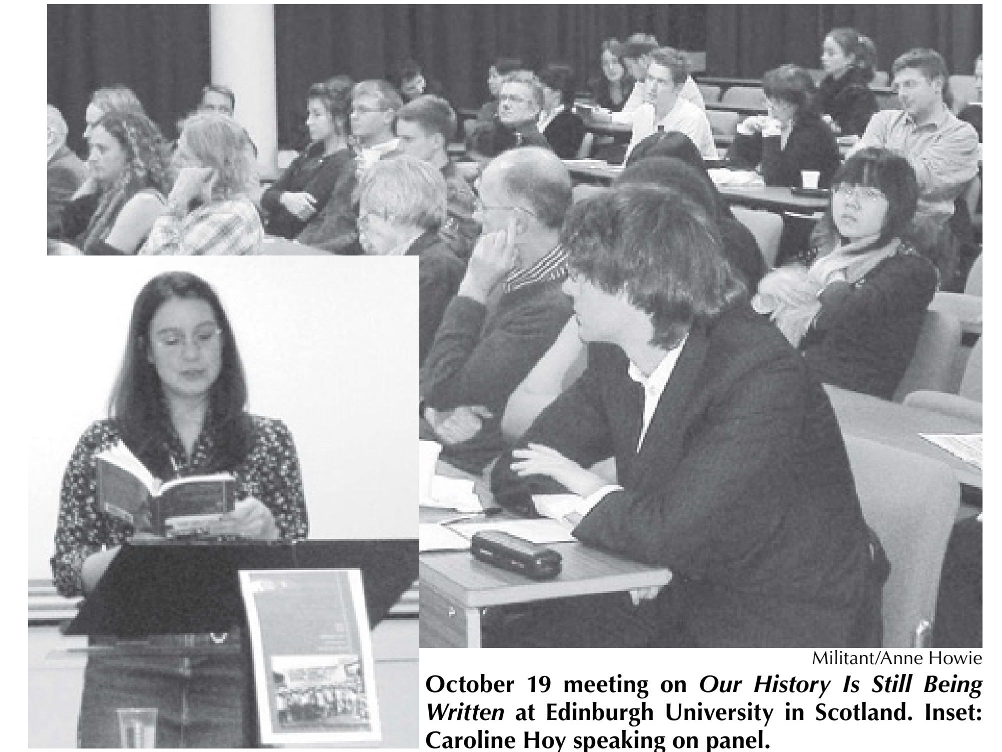
Andrew Ganis is the latest victim of the Illinois coal mine class war. Shot to death by a National Guardsman after being pointed out by a strikebreaker as a militant member of the Progressive Miners of America.

A double tragedy in the same family was but slightly averted. Mrs. Ganis was on the picket line at Taylorville and narrowly escaped death with a score of other picketers as the truck in which the National Guard was conveying them to the county line capsized.

In the funeral procession there were 5,000 automobiles with four people in every car.

Gunmen ambushed and wounded Pat Ansbury as he was returning from the funeral. Ansbury managed to crawl from the car and escape through fields with bullet wounds in the neck.

Meetings in Edinburgh, Glasgow discuss book by Cuban Chinese generals


Militant/Anne Howie
October 19 meeting on *Our History Is Still Being Written* at Edinburgh University in Scotland. Inset: Caroline Hoy speaking on panel.

BY TONY HUNT

EDINBURGH, Scotland—Meetings were held at Glasgow and Edinburgh universities October 18 and 19 to celebrate the publication of *Our History Is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Chinese-Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution*. Many of the 90 people in attendance at the two panel discussions were students, more than a dozen of them Chinese.

The book, published by Pathfinder Press, tells the story of Armando Choy, Gustavo Chui, and Moisés Sío Wong. As young Cuban rebels of Chinese ancestry, each became a combatant in the Cuban revolutionary war of the late 1950s, and after the revolution, rose to the rank of general in Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces. Today all three continue to play a leadership role in their country.

"This book tells a fascinating story of Chinese immigrants in Cuba, in the Cuban Revolution and beyond," said Jane Duckett in welcoming the audience in Glasgow. Duckett is the director of the Scottish Centre for Chinese Social Science Research at the University of Glasgow, which sponsored the event there.

The meetings began with an excerpt from the film *Ancestors in the Americas: Coolies, Settlers and Sailors* by U.S. filmmaker Loni Ding. The documentary recounts the oppression of China by the British and other imperialist powers, including the shipping of bonded laborers from China and the Indian subcontinent to the Americas to replace African slaves. Beginning in the mid-19th century, the Spanish colonialists transported tens of thousands of Chinese to Cuba to work on the sugar plantations.

Caroline Hoy, a researcher and lecturer on Chinese affairs, spoke at the meetings. Outlining the history of Chinese migration to the Americas, she explained that the Chinese in Cuba were contracted for eight years, after which time "few had the money to return to China." They settled on the island and many fought in the independence wars against Spain.

What changed in 1959

"The level of integration of the Chinese in Cuba changed after 1959 because of a true all-encompassing social revolution," said Hoy.

Drawing on the book for many of her remarks, Hoy highlighted the episode recounted by Moisés Sío Wong when he explained the leadership qualities of Ernesto Che Guevara, one of the central leaders of the Cuban Revolution. Sío Wong "naively" asked Guevara, then head of the National Bank, for $50 for a relative. In contrast with government officials in other countries who routinely resort to nepotism and slush funds, Guevara told him he could offer him nothing except his own modest officer's salary of 125 Cuban pesos, which he told Sío Wong to take if he needed it.

Jonathan Silberman, from Pathfinder Books in London, also spoke at both events. Last year Silberman accompanied Sío Wong, Choy, and Chui at several meetings across Cuba to present the book.

"This book wasn't published primarily for Cuba or for Cubans," Silberman said, "but for people like us in Britain and other countries who themselves want to fight exploitation and oppression." He said this included immigrant workers in the United Kingdom who respond to attacks on their conditions at work by joining trade unions.

The three generals, he continued, are typical of the thousands of "men and women from nowhere" who made Cuba's socialist revolution. "We can see ourselves in this book too," he said.

Silberman noted London's "history of imperialist domination of China and the Chinese" and its hostility to the Cuban Revolution. This includes a little-known incident at the end of World War II when the British government rounded up and summarily deported Chinese seafarers in Liverpool who had served for years on British merchant ships.

Silberman pointed to the interest that *Our History Is Still Being Written* has generated among young people of Asian descent, both in the United Kingdom and elsewhere, who proudly identify with the struggles and accomplishments of their ancestors. Many find themselves attracted to the example of the revolution in Cuba, where working people have made unprecedented progress in uprooting racist discrimination and continue to aid struggles against exploitation and oppression worldwide.

At both meetings there was a lively question-and-answer period. The topics covered included the renewal of interest in and celebration of Chinese culture in Cuba today, the struggle against racism in Cuba, and the ongoing efforts to win the new generation there to the revolution. In Edinburgh the meeting was chaired by Natascha Gentz of the Confucius Institute for Scotland at the University of Edinburgh, one of the sponsors along with Pathfinder Books in Edinburgh. The Chinese Students Association, also a sponsor, served refreshments.

Also publicizing the two events were the Scotland-China Association, the Scottish Cuba Solidarity Campaign, and the organizers of Glasgow Black History Month, which is celebrated in the United Kingdom in October.

3rd Venezuela international book fair opens

BY RÓGER CALERO AND OLYMPIA NEWTON

CARACAS, Venezuela, October 22—The third Venezuela International Book Fair opened simultaneously October 3 in the states of Aragua, Carabobo, Falcón, and Zulia. It is now traveling throughout the country and will culminate here in Caracas November 9–18.

The theme of this year's fair is "United States: A possible revolution." Writers, journalists, and other literary figures from the United States who oppose Washington's policies at home and abroad have been invited to participate in the cultural festival.

The participation by U.S. writers "occurs precisely at a time when millions of people in the United States are protesting to demand respect for human dignity, social justice, and an end to the violence at home and abroad," according to the book fair's official call. Fair organizers report that 24 presenters from the United States are scheduled to attend the event.

This year's country of honor is Argentina. More than 120 writers from that South American nation are expected to participate in forums, poetry readings, and other events. Cuba is projected to have the third largest delegation of international participants, after the United States.

"Today more than ever in our country, the possibility has been opened for everyone to have access to books, and through this, people of modest means have the possibility of taking good literature with them," said Francisco Contreras, mayor of Upata in the state of Guayana, to the daily *Nueva Prensa* of that state. Contreras was speaking at an October 14 book exposition in that town.

Fair organizers said one million books will be exhibited during the fair. A large number of them will be offered at subsidized prices as part of the Venezuelan government's efforts to increase access to books and culture.

Since a literacy campaign was launched here in 2003, with the help of Cuban volunteer teachers, thousands of Venezuelan workers and peasants have learned to read and write. Today, free educational programs through university level are available. Some of those who graduated from the literacy campaign are now among the facilitators of the educational programs.

"This is a book fair of substance, a place for debate, it's a stage for communities to meet with books," said Ramón Medero, president of the National Book Center, which is organizing the fair.

U.S.-based Pathfinder Press will be participating in the Caracas leg of the fair in November. Mary-Alice Waters, president of the publishing house, is one of the invited guests and will be speaking as part of a four-day rolling panel titled, "United States: A possible revolution."

Pathfinder will be presenting a number of titles at the fair, including *The First and Second Declarations of Havana*, *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution*, and *Malcolm X Talks to Young People*. The latter two will be presented jointly with the Venezuelan publisher Monte Avila, which is releasing Venezuelan editions of the two books.

Bipartisan agreement on spy bill

Continued from front page

the communications were with individuals in the United States.

It also grants immunity to companies that can demonstrate to a court that they acted in response to a legal directive from the government in turning over records of phone calls and e-mails. Companies could submit their evidence in secret. These companies are believed to include AT&T and Verizon Communications, the *Wall Street Journal* reported.

The bill would allow the court to dismiss some 40 lawsuits against telecommunications companies for violation of privacy if the U.S. attorney general certifies either that the company did not aid the government's spying or that it responded to a request authorized by the president between Sept. 11, 2001, and Jan. 17, 2007. The latter certification can also be presented in secret.

The agreement on the Senate bill came as a similar bill sponsored by Democrats in the House of Representatives collapsed. That bill did not include immunity for telecommunications companies. The House Democratic leadership said they withdrew the bill because they lacked the votes to get it out of committee.

The Senate deal was reached after the White House agreed to make documents authorizing the foreign spying program available to the Senate Intelligence Committee members. Some Democrats in the House and others in the Senate not on the intelligence committee have objected not to the spying but to the fact that they have not been privy to the documents.

Aides to the Senate Democratic leaders told the press they expect to pass a bill by the end of November.

The proletarian movement that smashed Jim Crow

Civil rights movement won historic gains for entire U.S. working class

BY PAUL PEDERSON

The civil rights movement of the 1950s and '60s smashed the system of institutionalized racist segregation in the South known as Jim Crow.

The fighting example of this proletarian movement transformed the consciousness of millions throughout the United States—Black and white, North and South. It dealt a major blow to the divisions in the U.S. working class along color lines that the capitalist rulers had been able to impose for decades after the defeat of Radical Reconstruction in 1877.

This article is the last in a three-part series on the leading role of Black workers in working-class struggles in the United States. The first installment focused on the rise and overthrow of Radical Reconstruction following the Civil War. The second reviewed the role of Black workers in the social movement that forged the industrial unions in the United States.



Birmingham, May 1963: Youth march out of First Baptist Church, ready to stand up to police dogs and high-pressure hoses of segregationist city government. The five-week Battle of Birmingham was a turning point in the civil rights movement.

The civil rights movement was marked by sustained mass challenges to the Jim Crow system in the South that drew millions of Black workers, farmers, and youth into combat.

The movement against Jim Crow originated in the battles against discrimination that Blacks waged during World War II (see article in the October 29 issue). These struggles were strengthened by the fact that over previous decades millions of Blacks had migrated from rural areas in the South to the urban centers, swelling the ranks of the industrial working class. The fight for Black freedom was also boosted by the exploding anticolonial revolutions in the world.

From Montgomery to Birmingham

The first victorious battle was waged in Montgomery, Alabama. In 1955–56 the Black population there organized a nearly 13-month boycott of the public bus system to protest institutionalized segregation in public transportation. In December 1956, the boycott ended when a federal injunction forced the city to end segregation in busing.

A year later, the attention of the world focused on Little Rock, Arkansas, where the segregationist state government deployed National Guard troops to block nine Black youths from integrating an all-white public high school. To head off a mass battle, the Eisenhower administration sent the 101st Airborne Division of the U.S. Army to allow the nine to attend class.

In 1960 a broad movement of student sit-ins at lunch counters and restaurants swept the South. The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee was founded that year in the heat of these struggles.

The next year, the Congress on Racial Equality spearheaded the Freedom Rides. In face of brutal Ku Klux Klan and racist mob attacks, they sent integrated buses of civil rights campaigners into the South to challenge segregation in interstate busing.

In the spring of 1963, one of the great battles of the movement unfolded in Birmingham to bring an end to discrimination in hiring and public facilities in the city's downtown. After five weeks of sustained demonstrations, the Birmingham jails were filled to overcapacity. Thousands of schoolchildren defied the riot police, dogs, and high-pressure hoses and continued to march until they won their demands.

Movement leaders organized a march on Washington for August 28 of that year that drew more than a quarter of a million people.

Urban rebellions

As mass campaigns continued in the South, explosions of protest rocked the Black community in northern cities. Rebellions erupted in Harlem in 1964, Watts in 1965, Chicago in 1966, and Newark and Detroit in 1967.

In 1968, "I am a man" was the rallying cry of a strike in Memphis, Tennessee, by sanitation workers, most of whom were Black. This victorious strike created the largest union local in that city. A day after addressing the striking workers, Martin Luther King was assassinated, on April 4, 1968.

His death touched off a wave of rebellions in more than 100 U.S. cities.

The Ku Klux Klan and other segregationist forces staged brutal, and often deadly, assaults on movement leaders and foot soldiers. In response, armed self-defense of Black communities played a critical and underappreciated role in the movement.

One example of this was the Deacons For Defense in Louisiana. Founded in 1964 in the town of Jonesboro, by the end of 1966 there were 21 chapters with several hundred members in Louisiana and Mississippi. The Deacons were at the center of the battles to desegregate Louisiana and helped deal a powerful blow to the Ku Klux Klan in that state.

Working-class leadership

From its inception, working-class leaders played a central role in the movement. One outstanding example was the Montgomery bus boycott, whose mastermind and organizer was a railroad porter named E.D. Nixon, a leader of the NAACP in Alabama and a regional leader of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.

When Rosa Parks, an NAACP activist and seamstress, was arrested on Dec. 1, 1955, for refusing to give up her bus seat to a white passenger, Nixon initiated calls to local preachers and arranged the planning meeting that eventually brought the young Rev. Martin Luther King into the struggle.

Malcolm X emerged during this period as a proletarian revolutionary leader of world-class stature. He placed the battle for Black rights in the context of a world revolutionary struggle—the anticolonial struggles in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

"The Black revolution is sweeping Asia, is sweeping Africa, is rearing its head in Latin America," Malcolm said in a November 1963 talk to a predominantly Black audience in Detroit. "The Cuban Revolution—that's a revolution. . . . They overturned the system. Revolution is in Asia, revolution is in Africa, and the white man is screaming because he sees revolution in Latin America. How do you think he'll react to you when you learn what a real revolution is?"

Efforts to organize Black political action independent of the twin capitalist parties, the Democrats and Republicans, was also part of this movement. The Freedom Now Party was launched in 1963 and ran a campaign in Michigan and other cities the next year, and the Lowndes County Freedom Organization ran for county office in Alabama in 1966. Malcolm X was an uncompromising opponent of support to the Democrats or Republicans.

Accomplishments

The civil rights movement carried out elements of a social revolution in the South. Following a decade of mass actions the movement dealt the decisive defeat to Jim Crow. The passage of the Civil Rights and Voting Rights acts in 1964 and 1965 codified these gains won on the battlefield.

The urban rebellions in the later half of the 1960s reflected the depth of the political radicalization the movement produced. The capitalist rulers made further concessions in an effort to stem the tide. These gains benefited the entire working class, leading to expanded funding for education, pensions, medical care, and other forms of social insurance. Gains were also made in broader democratic rights, from freedom of association to the right to privacy.

The movement was an inspiration and motor force of the youth radicalization of the 1960s, the women's liberation movement in the 1970s, and renewed struggles by Chicanos, Puerto Ricans, Native Americans, and other oppressed peoples for their rights. Its lessons and history remain an important weapon in the hands of working people.

Private property and origin of women's oppression

Below is an excerpt from Woman's Evolution: From Matriarchal Clan to Patriarchal Family, *one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month in November. The author, Evelyn Reed, reveals women's leading and still largely unknown contributions to the development of civilization and traces the roots of women's downfall to the rise of private property. The book outlines human evolution from classless society, where women played a prominent role, through the transitional stage of barbarism, to class society based on private property, including the subjugation of women. Copyright © 1975 Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.*

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY EVELYN REED

How, then, in the later period of barbarism, did women plummet from this highly esteemed position to their degraded status in civilized patriarchal society? Or, to put the question another way, how did men establish their supremacy in society and the family? Doubts about the priority of the matriarchy have persisted because this downfall of the female sex has not been adequately explained.

The basis of woman's downfall lies in the evolution of private property.



Peasant girl helps prepare land for planting in Upper Volta, now Burkina Faso, in mid-1970s. With the advent of class society, agriculture, once a source of woman's productive contributions, was transformed into a burden of exploitation.

The underlying socioeconomic factors have been delineated by Engels and others. Historically, private property originated with "movable property," objects that could be conveyed from one possessor to another. The institution of immobile property (real estate), consisting of land and its improvements, came much later in history; it began with the recognition of the family dwelling, garden, or orchard as distinct from the common land. But unlike movable goods this petty private domain did not originally enter into the exchange circuit.

The accumulation of the first private wealth was made possible by the higher economy that began with agriculture and stock-raising. The abundance of food led to more concentrated populations and new divisions of social labor. Men who had formerly been hunters now became farmers, herdsmen, and craftsmen. The more productive economy and augmented labor force gave rise to surpluses over and above the immediate consuming needs of the primary producers.

At first these surpluses were used to sustain the village elders who coordinated work on community projects such as irrigation systems. But gradually some men elevated themselves into priest-kings, nobles, and overlords, standing above the common people, exacting foodstuffs, livestock and handicrafts as tribute and later as taxes. Private wealth was now accumulating in the hands of an elite, a ruling class.

The subsequent development of commodity exchange on a larger scale leading toward a money economy speeded up the formation of new strata of wealthy proprietors and traders. In place of the old tribal warriors there appeared soldiers in the service of their warlords, sharing in the booty as a reward for their services. The captives they took were not adopted but put to work as slaves to augment the wealth of their masters.

The introduction of slavery sealed the downfall of women. Removed from productive and social life, they were relegated to the individual home. Although women continued to produce on farms and in home crafts, these were no longer social but family functions. Wealthy women were even more removed from productive activities, becoming little more than breeders of legal heirs to men's property.

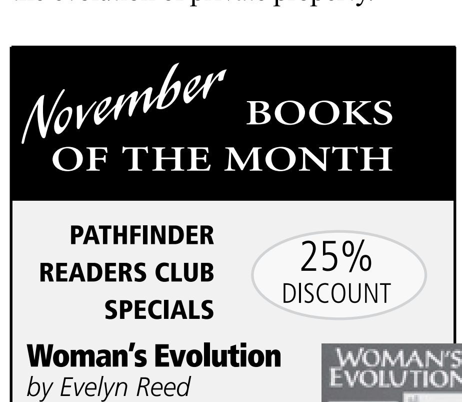
All this, however, still leaves certain questions unanswered. How did women's downfall coincide with the rise of private property? And why, when women were at the height of their power and prestige, did this property come into the hands of the men, not the women?

Wilhelm Reich touches on this subject in *The Invasion of Compulsory Sex-Morality.* He agrees with Engels that the advent of private property imposed the need to transmit wealth through children. But "this hypothesis does not show *how* wealth got into the man's hands . . . it does not indicate the mechanism behind the historical process" (p. 89). His own hypothesis calls attention to the "marriage gift" and its development into "purchase marriage" as the mechanism behind the advance from mother right to father right. But the matter goes deeper than this.

The origin of private property and how it came into the hands of men is tied up with the replacement of the matrifamily with undivided father right in the one-father family. The process to study, therefore, is the victory of father right over mother's brother right. The defeat of the mothers' brothers also brought about the downfall of the mothers.

As Reich detected, the turning point came with the development of the marriage gift into purchase marriage. Marriage gifts were the primitive interchanges of food and other items to bring hostile groups of men together, a necessary precondition for matrimonial relations. At a certain point in history this gift-giving between men passed over into a new and different kind of transaction—the exchange of what had become personal property. With this the marriage gift became the bride price. Since gift interchange had taken place between men, the bride price likewise became a transaction between men. This was the first factor behind the rise of private property in male, not female hands.

The gift could not become a price until a sufficiently high economic level had been reached. To go beyond the interchange of token items, goods of value such as cattle had to be available for exchange. The first regions in which gift-giving passed over into barter were the pastoral regions of the Old World, and cattle became the first value involved in the transition from the marriage gift to the bride price.



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EDITORIAL

How to stop imperialist war drive

As thousands march in U.S. cities October 27 against the U.S.-led war in Iraq, the Pentagon now says we should expect at least 15 more years of war—not only in Iraq but Afghanistan and beyond. U.S. troops are deployed today in Africa, Eastern Europe, the Philippines, and elsewhere. And Washington refuses to "take off the table" the possibility of launching a military air strike against Iran. The White House is demanding another $46 billion by December for overseas military operations, bringing the fiscal year's spending for the U.S. rulers' wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, plus "counterterrorism" operations, to nearly $200 billion.

What is the cause of the wars spreading across the globe? How can they be stopped?

Democratic contenders for the U.S. presidency argue that the problem is the incumbent, George Bush, and the Republican Party. Not a single one of these Democrats, of course, calls for immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq, not to mention Afghanistan. Despite the pretense of many of them to be for "peace," the best their party in Congress could do last spring was pass a nonbinding bill for "phased redeployment." When Bush vetoed it, they gave him every penny of the billions he requested.

Washington's war drive is not a policy choice of this or that capitalist politician or party. It is a built-in necessity for an economic system—capitalism—and for the class of billionaire families that rules the United States. The same is true for their imperialist counterparts in Europe, Canada, Japan, and elsewhere.

This necessity is rooted in the long-term downward tendency of the employers' profit rates and the sharpening economic competition and political conflicts among imperialist powers over redivision of world markets. No matter who is in the White House, or which capitalist party controls the Congress, the government is bound to represent these class interests—at the expense of working people abroad and at home.

This drive to war is an extension of the bosses' drive to squeeze more out of working people at home, through speedup, slashing health insurance and pensions, and recklessly endangering safety on the job in the pursuit of higher profit rates. The war for profits at home goes hand in hand with the increased use of the police against working people and restrictions on political rights. This can be seen in the bipartisan bill to expand the government's domestic spying powers, which will target unionists, Black rights fighters, and other opponents of U.S. government policies.

There is one social force that has the potential power and interest in stopping the capitalists' wars at home and abroad: the workers and farmers who produce the wealth, in this country and worldwide. That is why the resistance today by working people to these attacks is the biggest obstacle facing the U.S. rulers' war drive.

Thousands of immigrant workers have organized protests against the stepped-up raids and deportations by Homeland Security cops. Tens of thousands of working people and youth have been protesting racist discrimination and police brutality, most recently around the cases of the Jena Six in Louisiana and the acquittal of boot camp guards in Florida who killed Martin Lee Anderson, a 14-year-old Black youth.

The Young Socialists and the Socialist Workers Party are part of this resistance—in mines and factories, on picket lines, at protests by immigrant workers and opponents of imperialist war. They offer a revolutionary working-class strategy as part of fighting to build a movement that, in the course of struggle, can ultimately disarm the capitalist war makers once and for all. That will be done by replacing the capitalist rulers with a workers and farmers government as part of the worldwide struggle for socialism. Join them!

Florida protesters: Jail killer guards!

Continued from front page

courthouse.

At the October 23 rally, Vanessa Baden, a student at Florida State University and a leader of the Student Coalition for Justice, reported that in Tallahasee, "on the day of the verdict, about 300 students walked out of classes and blocked the intersection at the Capitol building." Many of the protesters were Black students from several campuses.

Martin Lee Anderson died on Jan. 6, 2006, the day after he was locked up in the Bay County boot camp. The state of Florida operated five military-style juvenile boot camps as a substitute for prison for children and young teenagers. After Anderson's death authorities closed the camps. Anderson had been sent to the camp for a probation violation after trespassing at a school and allegedly stealing his grandmother's car from a church parking lot.

Videotape showed beating

During the "induction process" Anderson collapsed, and said he had trouble breathing after running around a track. Then, as a widely viewed 30-minute tape showed, the guards punched, kneed, and dragged the limp boy as the nurse watched. They put ammonia capsules under his nose while his mouth was forced shut.

Boot camp supervisor Charles Helms asserted in court that the guards would have stopped beating Anderson if he had just kept exercising as ordered. The video of the incident shows the officers trying to pull him up from the ground by his arms. When they did get him to stand, Anderson took a small step and fell to his knees. He died the next day.

Two autopsies were performed. The first, conducted by Bay County's chief medical examiner, found that the boy had died of sickle cell trait, a genetic blood disorder that is generally benign. Sickle cell experts called this diagnosis highly improbable. The second autopsy, performed at the request of the family, attributed his death to suffocation. Anderson's family received $4.8 million from the state of Florida as compensation for his death. "It is very unfair when a white boy gets beat up and a Black boy gets killed," said Brigét Horne, 19, a sophomore at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, who marched in the October 23 protest here along with many others from her campus.

Horne was noting the difference in treatment of six Black youths in Jena, Louisiana, who faced severe charges in the beating a white youth, and the guards acquitted in the death of Martin Lee Anderson.

New Zealand

Continued from front page

alleged at an October 15 media conference that those arrested had engaged in "military-style" training involving firearms at camps in the Urewera mountain range. He said some guns and ammunition had been seized. Charges under the Terrorism Suppression Act would be considered, he added. Following the raids, police continued to search and question others.

The arrests followed a year-long operation during which the police bugged conversations, tapped phones, intercepted Internet and text messages, and secretly videotaped people. Prime Minister Helen Clark and other senior politicians were briefed prior to the raids, officials told the press.

Police mounted the biggest operation in the Maori settlements of Ruatoki and Taneatua near Whakatane, where Tame Iti and others were arrested. Heavily armed cops set up roadblocks. They stopped and searched cars, trucks, and school buses, and photographed local residents. A police helicopter with a sniper on board flew overhead.

Whakatane and its nearby settlements are on the edge of the isolated Urewera mountains. These are the traditional lands of the Tuhoe people. Local residents point out that they regularly hunt in the mountains with guns and that there are numerous camps in the bush. Many training courses take place there, including in traditional Maori martial arts. Iti is regarded as a knowledgeable teacher of these traditions.

Maori protests

The Maori Party, which has four members of Parliament, criticized the police raids. "The Maori families living in my electorate feel unduly harassed," said MP Te Ururoa Flavell in a statement released October 15. He noted that when new "antiterrorism" legislation was enacted in 2002, "Maori predicted it was only a matter of time before it was used against them."

"It's not the first time that Maori have been targeted as terrorists," Maori Party co-leader Tariana Turia told TV reporters. "We know some years ago when Maori people went to Cuba they were accused of terrorism [but] nobody's blown up since then."

Pickets calling for the defendants' release have been held outside courtrooms in Auckland, Wellington, and Rotorua during bail hearings.

Demonstrations took place in several cities October 20. In Auckland about 250 people rallied in the city and marched on the central police station.

Nationwide protests have been called for October 27. A defense committee has been formed to campaign for the release of those arrested. It can be contacted through its website, www.civilrightsdefence.org.nz.

Turkish troops mass on border of Iraq

Continued from front page

in their countries.

Thousands demonstrated across Turkey after the cross-border raid, demanding the government take action against the Kurdish rebels. A demonstration in Istanbul of 2,000, organized by the main opposition party, demanded that prime minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan resign. Offices of the main Kurdish political party were attacked in central Turkey.

Thousands march in Iraqi Kurdistan

In Iraqi Kurdistan, thousands of Kurds marched in Erbil, the capital, and Zakho and Dahuk. Marchers waved the flag of Iraq's Kurdish autonomous region. They called for negotiations with Ankara but also insisted on resistance to any incursion from Turkey, Reuters reported.

The Kurdish Regional Government said it was "concerned" by Turkey's authorization of military action in KRG territory. KRG president Massoud Barzani, a leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party, said his government would fight a Turkish offensive.

An October 17 resolution by the Turkish parliament authorizing the sending of troops into northern Iraq was aimed at getting Washington and the KRG to take action against the PKK.

Iraqi president Jalal Talabani, a leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), said the Iraqi government "will not hand any Kurdish man to Turkey, even a Kurdish cat."

Talabani also condemned remarks made by Syrian president Bashar al-Assad supporting the Turkish parliament's resolution. Some 1.5 million Kurds live in Syria. Most are denied citizenship and elementary rights.

While Talabani and leaders of the KRG warned Turkey against attacking the PKK, they have also pressured the PKK to end the fighting and return to Turkey. In an October 21 interview posted on the PUK's website, Talabani said, "For some time we have been advising the PKK to abandon armed action." He said Iraqi and Kurdish regional authorities had taken other measures toward the PKK: "We drove them out of the cities and are trying to make them leave all the other populated areas." PKK offices in Iraq have been closed and the group's movements and financing restricted, he added.

The Shiite-led government in Baghdad announced October 23 that it would send a military delegation to Ankara but added that diplomacy should be used to resolve the conflict with the Kurds.

Meanwhile, Democrats in the U.S. Congress are backing away from a proposed resolution charging Turkey with genocide against 1.5 million Armenians at the end of World War I. The Bush administration has lobbied against the bill, saying it could hurt the U.S.-led wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

About 70 percent of U.S. air cargo for the war in Iraq goes through Turkey, more than half through its Incirlik Air Base. The U.S. military said it is considering Jordan and Kuwait as alternative supply lines.